

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1224

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Claudette Hunt Lehew upon being named Soror of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Claudette Lehew, who will be honored as Soror of the Year by the Beta Eta Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc., on May 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, a pianist, composer, educator, and minister of music, Ms. Lehew demonstrated her tremendous musical abilities at Lane College, where she was a member of the band, concert choir, and symphony orchestra; and

WHEREAS, after attaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with an emphasis in Instrumental Music, Claudette Lehew shared her musical expertise with young people as a music educator in the public schools of Michigan, Florida, and Tennessee, in addition to serving as Chair of the music department at Mary Holmes College; and

WHEREAS, she furthered her music studies and received her Master's degree in Music from Tennessee State University and completed post graduate studies at the University of Memphis; she continues to stay abreast of current trends in the music field by regularly attending workshops and symposiums on music theory and performance; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-eight years of exceptional service, Ms. Lehew retired from Memphis City Schools, where she served as the Orff Music Specialist at Rozelle Creative and Performing Arts Elementary School; in this position, she directed the Rozelle Showstoppers and the Rozelle Concert Choir, and her students received numerous awards from local and national

festivals and performed at the White House, the United Nations, and with the Russian Ballet;
and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lehw continues to bring music into young lives as a part-time music teacher at St. John Elementary School and is the founder and director of the Lehw Piano Studio; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work in music education, Claudette Lehw still finds time to lend her incredible talents to such notable causes as the national sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., of which she is a board member, and as a member of the Memphis Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lehw is the Director of Music at Mt. Olive Cathedral Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and she previously served as Minister of Music for St. Andrew African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she managed the music program and direction for the Elmer Martin Singers, the Male Chorus, the Women's Chorus, and the Mass Choir; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Lehw epitomizes the spirit of dedication and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Lehw is most grateful for the love and support she shares with her daughter, Kimberly Patrice Lehw; her sisters, Paula Hunt Phillips, Gwendolyn Hunt Carter, and Embery Hunt, and Ms. Lehw is the niece and caretaker of Willie Hester Tharpe; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Lehw for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Claudette Hunt Lehw upon being named Soror of the Year by the Beta Eta Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc., and for her meritorious service to the state of Tennessee and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

